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10/765,519	01/27/2004	Peter C. Johnson II	200206870-1	1025
22879 7590 05/28/2009 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400				
EXAMINER				
FEARER, MARK D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2443				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/28/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,519

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Examiner

MARK D. FEARER

Art Unit

2443

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed 20 February 2009 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 24-26 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26 are pending in the present application.

4. In view of the appeal brief filed on 23 February 2009, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/Tonia LM Dollinger/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2443

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10, 12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yairi et al. (US 20040078424 A1) in view of Samn (US 20040186888 A1).

Consider claims 1, 5 as applied to claim 1, and 10. Yairi et al. discloses a system and method, comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to an instant messaging user interface via the instant messaging communication subsystem ((“Once an embedded IM client in a mobile terminal (e.g., mobile terminal/IM client 113) learns about a web service (e.g., web service 125), web service proxy module 103 facilitates communications between the embedded IM client 113 and the web service 125 based on the data obtained by

web service broker 105. As indicated above, the web service 125 appears to the IM client 113 as a "virtual" IM user. Generally, the IM client 113 sends a message through the mobile IM server 111 to the web service proxy 103. The service controller 107 determines the service description used by the web service (e.g., by retrieving the web service's corresponding metadata from database 133), obtains any necessary parameters from the IM client 113, translates the information into a message format understandable by the web service 125, and forwards the message to the requested web service 125. Upon receiving the response from the web service 125, the web service proxy 103 translates the message into IM messages understandable by the IM client 113, and forwards the message to the requesting IM client 113. Note that the web service proxy provides the role of a stateless, data format translator between the IM and web services protocols. The service controller 107 contains the logic which drives the service invocation behavior of the gateway.") paragraph 0033).

However, Yairi et al. fails to disclose a system or method wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers.

Samn discloses a method and system for transferring real-time messages between multiple non-connected messaging servers wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers ("There remains a need for an improved instant messaging system that can enable a user to have broader access to multiple non-connected message servers for the purpose of transmitting messages to and receiving messages from these multiple non-connected message servers.") paragraph 0011 ("The present invention allows a client that may have multiple accounts, each on distinct, unconnected

messaging servers, to be able to be a relay point between or among those messaging servers. In the system of the present invention, at least one user with accounts on the multiple servers would log on to each server. When that user wants to create a chat conference among people from each of the isolated servers, the relay user can invite each person to the conversation and relay messages from users within the conference on a given server, to the other users from the other server(s). The relay can be implemented easily by "echoing" messages coming from one server to other servers that are connected to the relay client.") paragraph 0017 ("Referring to FIG. 6, shown is a configuration for this system of the present invention. This system comprises a central user 56 that has accounts on three different messaging servers 57, 58 and 59. In the present invention, central user 56 would serve as a relay point for messages from users having accounts on only one messaging server. In this configuration, messaging server 57 has in addition to user 56, users 60 and 61. Users 60 and 61 can only access messaging server 57. Messaging server 58 also has user 62 and 63 in addition to user 56. Messaging server 59 also has user 64 and 65 in addition to user 56.") paragraph 0037).

Yairi et al. discloses a prior art a system and method, comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP

gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein the HTTP gateway selects said instant messaging, communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system upon which the claimed invention can be seen as an improvement.

Samn teaches a prior art comparable method and system for transferring real-time messages between multiple non-connected messaging servers wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers.

Thus, the manner of enhancing a particular device (method and system for transferring real-time messages between multiple non-connected messaging servers wherein a selection is made from a plurality of proxy servers) was made part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art based upon the teaching of such improvement in Samn. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been capable of applying this known improvement technique in the same manner to the prior art system and method, comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging

communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein the HTTP gateway selects said instant messaging, communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system of Yairi et al. and the results would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art, namely, one skilled in the art would have readily recognized a multi-protocol instant messaging system and method.

Consider claims 3 as applied to claim 1, and claim 12 as applied to claim 10. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, discloses a system and method comprising a back-end database connected to the HTTP server, wherein the HTTP server is adapted to query the back-end database in preparing the HTTP responses ("Web service broker module 105 provides registration and discovery for web services accessed through IM/WS gateway 101, and stores in database 133 any data needed for the interaction between the end user and a requested web service. The stored data may include web service description metadata, web service composition metadata, or web service workflow logic. The stored data may additionally include program control logic, payment information, or any other information about the web service or web service provider that

may be presented to the user, e.g., during web service discovery or activation. This stored data may subsequently be referred to either collectively or specifically as web service metadata or simply as metadata.") Yairi et al., paragraph 0027).

Consider claims 7 as applied to claim 1, and 15 as applied to claim 10. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, discloses a system wherein the HTTP gateway polls the instant messaging communication subsystem for the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces ("A mobile terminal, comprising: a processor; an input device; a display screen; memory storing computer readable instructions that, when executed by the processor, perform a method for communicating with a plurality of web services, comprising (i) sending to an instant messaging web services gateway an instant messaging (IM) formatted request to communicate with a predetermined web service in the plurality of web services; (ii) receiving an IM-formatted query message from the gateway for each input required by the predetermined web service; (iii) generating an input value for each input required by the predetermined web service; (iv) sending an IM-formatted response message to the gateway for each determined input value; and (v) receiving an IM-formatted web service response from the gateway based on each of the sent input values.") Yairi et al., Claim 24).

Consider claim 8 as applied to claim 1 and 16 as applied to claim 10. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, discloses a system wherein conversion of commands from instant messaging user interfaces into the HTTP requests comprises creation of form variables

by the HTTP gateway based on the commands ("According to a first aspect of the invention, a gateway data processing device acts as an intermediary between IM users and web services. The gateway communicates with an instant messaging (IM) server via a first network interface, and communicates with a plurality of web service providers through a second network interface. The gateway stores a database of information on the available web services, such as communication details, required inputs, expected outputs, and the like. The gateway also includes a proxy module that translates messages between formats understandable by IM users and each web service. When the proxy receives from an IM user an IM-formatted request for a web service, the proxy retrieves information from the database corresponding to the requested web service, and generates one or more web service-formatted request(s) corresponding to the requested web service using the retrieved information. Upon creation of the web service formatted message, the proxy sends the web service-formatted request(s) to a specific web services provider that provides the requested web service. One or more web service response(s) is received by the proxy, reformatted for the IM system, and delivered to the IM server destined to the originating mobile IM user.") Yairi et al., paragraph 0010).

7. Claims 2, 6, 9, 11, 14, 17-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yairi et al. (US 20040078424 A1) in view of Samn (US 20040186888 A1) and in further view of Kay et al. (US 7146404 B2).

Consider claim 2 as applied to claim 1 and 11 as applied to claim 10. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, discloses a system and method comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem. However, Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, fails to disclose a system and method comprising at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem. Kay et al. discloses a method for performing authenticated access to a service on behalf of a user comprising at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication

subsystem ("To gain access to the sibling services, the interactive agent servers must be granted a trust relationship with the sibling services. Hence, the provider of the IM and sibling services grant access to the sibling services databases without requiring a password. In doing so, the service provider is trusting the interactive agent to properly handle the access privileges. Such a trust relationship is possible because of the very nature of instant messaging. For a user to send a message from a given screen name, they must be pre-authenticated by the instant messaging service. That service authentication mechanism is the same mechanism (and the same screen name and password) that is used by the sibling services. Therefore, the fact that a message is received from the screen name proves in itself that the user has access to the data in question. In accordance with the preferred embodiment, once the trust relationship is established, the interactive agent would have access to user information stored in the sibling services. The interactive agent can then manipulate the data stored in sibling services on behalf of the user, since the data belongs to that user. In certain embodiments, Personal Bots are used to store all of the user's personal data in the interactive agent user profile. In accordance with the present embodiment, it is possible to increase the synergy of the personal bot with the method of the invention, if the interactive agent granting access to the user's personal data was previously stored in the sibling services. In this case, the user would then have an integrated calendar, for example, that is manipulateable either through the previously extant web interface, as well as through the personal bot, by issuing statements such as "I'm having lunch with Bob Smith on Tuesday."") column 16 lines 44-67 and column 17 lines 1-8).

Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, discloses a prior art web services via instant messaging comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem upon which the claimed invention can be seen as an improvement.

Kay et al. teaches a prior art comparable method for performing authenticated access to a service on behalf of a user comprising at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem.

Thus, the manner of enhancing a particular device (method for performing authenticated access to a service on behalf of a user comprising at least one instant messaging bot, wherein the HTTP gateway is coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem via the at least one instant messaging bot and the instant

messaging bot receives the commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem) was made part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art based upon the teaching of such improvement in Kay et al. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been capable of applying this known improvement technique in the same manner to the prior art web services via instant messaging comprising: an HTTP gateway adapted to establish a communication link with an HTTP server; and an instant messaging communication subsystem adapted to enable communication between a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to the instant messaging communication subsystem; wherein, the HTTP gateway establishes a communication link with the instant messaging communication subsystem and wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to receive commands from the instant messaging user interfaces, convert the commands to HTTP requests, send the HTTP requests to the HTTP server, receive HTTP responses to the HTTP requests from the HTTP server, and send the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem of Yairi et al., as modified by Samn, and the results would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art, namely, one skilled in the art would have readily recognized a system and method of application hosting.

Consider claims 6 as applied to claim 1, 14 as applied to claim 10, and 20 as applied to claim 18. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a system and method wherein the HTTP gateway is adapted to map the HTTP requests to

specific paths on the HTTP server (Yairi et al., paragraph 0007 and Kay et al., column 8 lines 14-48).

Consider claim 9 as applied to claim 1, and 17 as applied to claim 10. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a system and method wherein transmitting the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces comprises extracting text portions of the HTTP responses and communicating the text portions to the instant messaging user interfaces (Kay et al., column 9 lines 47-67 and column 10 lines 1-16).

Consider claim 18. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a system comprising: means for establishing a communication link between an HTTP gateway and an HTTP server; means for transmitting commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces coupled to an instant messaging communication subsystem to the HTTP gateway via at least one instant messaging bot; means for converting the commands to HTTP requests (Yairi et al., paragraph 0010); means for transmitting the HTTP requests to the HTTP server (Kay et al., column 4 lines 1-28); means for generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests; and means for transmitting the HTTP responses via the at least one instant messaging bot to the instant messaging user interfaces (Kay et al., column 16 lines 44-67 and column 17 lines 1-8) wherein the HTTP selects said instant messaging communication subsystem from among a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems using a

configuration file of the HTTP gateway stored on the system (Yairi et al., paragraph 0040).

Consider claim 19, as applied to claim 18. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a system wherein generating HTTP responses to the HTTP requests comprises a means for querying a back-end database (Yairi et al., paragraph 0027).

Consider claim 21. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a gateway comprising: a CPU; a storage device coupled to the CPU and containing executable code; wherein, upon executing the code, the processor receives commands from instant messaging user interfaces, converts the commands to HTTP requests (Kay et al., column 16 lines 44-67 and column 17 lines 1-8), sends the HTTP requests to an HTTP server, receives HTTP responses from the HTTP server, and sends the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via an instant messaging communication subsystem (Kay et al., column 4 lines 1-28); a configuration file, wherein the CPU accesses data in the configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging subsystems the gateway establishes a communication link; wherein the configuration file is usable to determine to which of a plurality of HTTP servers the gateway sends said HTTP requests (Yairi et al., paragraph 0040).

Consider claim 22, as applied to claim 21. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a gateway wherein the CPU further comprises executable code for an instant messaging bot, wherein the instant messaging bot receives commands from the instant messaging user interfaces and sends HTTP responses to the users interfaces via the instant messaging communication subsystem (Kay et al., column 16 lines 44-67 and column 17 lines 1-8).

Consider claim 24. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a storage device containing software that, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to: receive commands from a plurality of instant messaging user interfaces; convert the commands to HTTP requests (Yairi et al., paragraph 0010); transmit the HTTP requests to an HTTP server; receive HTTP responses from the HTTP server; and transmit the HTTP responses to the instant messaging user interfaces via an instant messaging communication subsystem (Kay et al., column 4 lines 1-28); wherein receiving commands from or transmitting HTTP responses to the of instant messaging user interfaces comprises accessing a configuration file to determine with which of a plurality of instant messaging communication subsystems to establish a communication link (Yairi et al., paragraph 0040).

Consider claim 25, as applied to claim 24. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a storage device wherein receiving commands from a plurality of

instant messaging user interfaces comprises receiving the commands via an instant messaging bot (Kay et al., column 16 lines 44-67 and column 17 lines 1-8).

Consider claim 26, as applied to claim 24. Yairi et al., as modified by Samn and Kay et al., discloses a storage device wherein receiving HTTP responses from the HTTP server comprises querying a back-end database (Yairi et al., paragraph 0027).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 23 February 2009 with respect to claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-22 and 24-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any response to this Office Action should be faxed to (571) 273 8300 or mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
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401 Dulany Street
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Mark Fearer whose telephone number is (571) 270-1770. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger can be reached on (571) 272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Mark Fearer
/M.D.F./
May 12, 2009

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/Tonia LM Dollinger/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2443